

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /026 R

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APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

NEA/P - MR. SHERMAN

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DOD/ISA/NESA - MR. NOYES

DOD/OSD/PA - MR. BEECHER

NEA -MR. SAUNDERS

S/S:REWOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMTM DHAHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 081054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, SA, OVIP (CLEMENTS, WILLIAM P.)

SUBJECT: PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLEMENTS VISIT

1. UNLESS YOU ADVISE OTHERWISE, DEFENSE PLANS TO RELEASE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLEMENTS VISIT AT 1000 LOCAL FRIDAY APRIL 11.

2. TEXT PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT, ALONG WITH QUESTION AND ANSWER MATERIAL, FOLLOWS:

QUOTE PROPOSED TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPSECDEF'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR., AND
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A SMALL ACCOMPANYING PARTY, WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA FOR

THREE DAYS BEGINNING NEXT WEEK. THE PARTY WILL ARRIVE IN SAUDI ARABIA ON APRIL 13. THE VISIT WAS DECIDED ON DURING THE COURSE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAUDIS IN MID-FEBRUARY. IT HAD BEEN TENTATIVELY AGREED THAT THE VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE EARLIER IN APRIL, BUT WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF THE ASSASSINATION OF KING FAISAL. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO CONSULT WITH SENIOR SAUDI OFFICIALS ON COOPERATIVE U.S.-SAUDI ARABIAN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MILITARY PROGRAMS. MR. CLEMENTS AND HIS PARTY WILL STOP IN BAHRAIN TO CALL ON BAHRAINI OFFICIALS AND TO VISIT THE U.S. MIDDLE EAST FORCE, WHICH IS BASED THERE.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: IS THE VISIT CONNECTED TO THE CURRENT REASSESSMENT OF US POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A: NO, THE DECISION THAT MR. CLEMENTS WOULD VISIT SAUDI ARABIA WAS MADE NEARLY TWO MONTHS AGO.

Q: DOES THE VISIT HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF KING FAISAL?

A: NO, PLANS FOR THE VISIT WERE FIRST DISCUSSED WITH THE SAUDIS IN MID-FEBRUARY, ABOUT SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION OF KING FAISAL.

Q: IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT REASSESSMENT OF U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IS THE TRIP INTENDED TO BE SOME SORT OF SIGNAL TO ISRAEL?

A: NO, THIS IS MR. CLEMENTS FIRST VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S. HAS HAD A MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH SAUDI ARABIA WHICH DATES BACK OVER 20 YEARS.

Q: DOES THE VISIT HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH THE JOINT U.S.-SAUDI SECURITY COMMISSION WHICH MET IN SAUDI ARABIA LAST NOVEMBER?

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A: THIS IS NOT A MEETING OF THE JOINT U.S.-SAUDI SECURITY COMMISSION OF WHICH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, MR. ROBERT ELLSWORTH, IS CO-CHAIRMAN. IT IS EXPECTED, OF COURSE, THAT SOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS WILL TOUCH ON TOPICS WHICH HAVE BEEN REVIEWED IN THE SECURITY COMMISSION MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER. I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION,

PRINCE TURKI, VISITED THE U.S. LAST NOVEMBER AS MR. CLEMENTS' GUEST. ALSO, THE SAUDI MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION PRINCE SULTAN, VISITED THE U.S. AS THE GUEST OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN 1972.

Q: WHAT OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS WILL ACCOMPANY MR. CLEMENTS?

A: THE PARTY WILL INCLUDE LIEUTENANT GENERAL HOWARD M. FISH, DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY; MR. JAMES H. NOYES, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS; BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN

G. JONES, MILITARY ASSISTANT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS, AND MR. RICHARD W. AHERNE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARABIAN PENINSULA AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE SECURITY ASSISTANCE REPRESENTATIVES WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED.

Q: WHICH SAUDI OFFICIALS WILL DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS MEET?

A: MR. CLEMENTS AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY, AS APPROPRIATE, WILL CALL ON KING KHALID; FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, PRINCE FAHD; SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, PRINCE ABDULLAH; AND, OF COURSE, WITH PRINCE SULTAN AND PRINCE TURKI, THE MINISTER AND VICE MINISTER RESPECTIVELY OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION.

Q: WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS VISIT TO BAHRAIN, AND OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH BAHRAIN TO RETAIN MIDEASTFOR THERE?

A: NONE. OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN
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ON THE RETENTION OF MIDEASTFOR ARE CONTINUING, ON A CORDIAL AND PRODUCTIVE BASIS. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED. MR. CLEMENTS' VISIT TO BAHRAIN IS NOT RELATED TO THOSE DISCUSSIONS. RATHER IT IS A MATTER OF HIS WANTING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS PRESENCE IN THE AREA TO VISIT THE PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES OF MIDEASTFOR, AND TO MEET, AS A COURTESY, WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF BAHRAIN. END QUOTE.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY AND, IF BELIEVED NECESSARY, HOST GOVERNMENT CONCURRENCE IN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, AND IN PROPOSED TEXT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE081054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWAHERNE:GLG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750123-1048
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750465/aaaaciha.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLEMENTS VISIT
TAGS: MARR, OVIP, US, SA, (CLEMENTS, WILLIAM P)
To: JIDDA MANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006